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Iowa's Drug Policy Coordinator Applauds Action by Congress to Control Synthetic Drugs

DES MOINES – Iowa Drug Policy Coordinator Steve Lukan hails last night's final congressional approval of a bill to outlaw several synthetic drugs nationwide as landmark action that will help protect unsuspecting youth across America from poisons in drugs such as K2, Spice and bath salts.

"Thank you to Senator Grassley for his leadership on reaching agreement on this complex issue in the U.S. Senate, and to all members of Iowa's congressional delegation for their bipartisan support of this important legislation," said Lukan, who also serves as director of the Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy. "While strengthening controls on synthetic drugs nationally, this legislation will also help reduce the supply of these dangerous products brought into Iowa from neighboring states with less restrictive laws of their own."

Similar to the groundbreaking state legislation signed into law a month ago by Governor Branstad, the federal proposal winning final passage in the U.S. Senate last night would list several synthetic drug compounds as Schedule I Controlled Substances. That would make them illegal to manufacture, sell or possess anywhere in the U.S.

"I'm also grateful to the Rozga family of Indianola, whose teenage son David died of a K2-induced self-inflicted shooting almost two years ago," Lukan said. "The Rozgas have worked tirelessly in the wake of their son's tragic death to enact stronger laws and save the lives of others. Mike and Jan Rozga continue to educate parents about the dangers of synthetic drugs, and education is a continuing need for all of us to prevent the use of harmful substances that laws alone may not stop."

The bill given final congressional approval by the U.S. Senate last night now goes to the President, who is expected to sign it into law.

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